

Preliminary Amendment
CPA of Serial No. 09/384,541

Docket No.: 23452-109

REMARKS

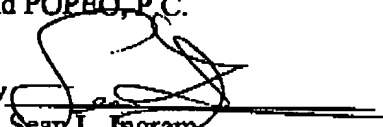
Claims 1-20 are currently pending and have been amended to further clarify the invention. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all the rejected claims in view of the claim amendments.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned attorney stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully petition for any extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fees, except for the Issue Fee, is to be charged to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

Respectfully submitted,

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and POPEO, P.C.

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